

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 3155

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJECT: NPG-MISSION COMMENTS ON MONTEREY NPG AGENDA

REF: A. USNATO 3100; B. USNATO 3131

SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC BALANCE BRIEFING, TWO KEY
ITEMS ON THE MONTEREY NPG AGENDA WILL BE THE FOLLOW-ON USE WORK PROGR
AM

AND THE NUNN AMENDMENT. MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW-ON USE
PROVIDES VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO SET FORTH US VIEWS ON NUCLEAR EMPLOY

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MENT POLICY WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO SETTING TONE AND DIRECTION FOR
THE PROPOSED PHASE III PROJECT (DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF ALLIANCE POLICY FOR USE OF THEATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS).
KEY ISSUE IN MINDS OF ALLIES MAY BE DOUBTS ABOUT MILITARY UTILITY
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE BELIEVE US SHOULD SEEK TO TEMPER ANY
TENDENCY TOWARD SIMPLISTIC VIEWS ON THIS COMPLEX SUBJECT.
ON NUNN AMENDMENT, WE EXPECT MINISTERS WILL BE INTERESTED IN
DISCUSSING CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES, STATUS OF FOLLOW-ON STUDIES
AND ROLE OF NATO THEREIN, AND IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE STOCKPILE

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REDUCTIONS FOR MBFR. ON COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS TO USE
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WE BELIEVE A FEW WELL CHOSEN WORDS COULD PUT TO REST
THE IDEA OF FURTHER STUDY OF THE USE OF "WARNING MESSAGES".
END SUMMARY.

1. IN ADDITION TO SECDEF'S BRIEFING ON STRATEGIC BALANCE, WHICH, AS IN THE PAST, WILL HIGHLIGHT OF MEETING, THE TWO KEY ITEMS ON THE NPG MONTEREY AGENDA ARE THE FOLLOW-ON USE WORK PROGRAM AND NUMM AMENDMENT. NPG PERMREPS'S DIKUSSION OF THE FOLLOW-ON USE WORK PROGRAM ON JUNE 3 (REPORTED IN REF A) INDICATED INTENSE INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE THE ALLIES ATTACH TO THE RECOMMENDED UNDERTAKING IN PHASE III INVOLVING DEVELOPMENT OF CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ALLIANCE POLICY FOR USE OF THEATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS PROJECT WILL PROVIDE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING US NUCLEAR EMPLOYMENT POLICY CONCEPTS TO BEAR IN NATO, TO EDUCATE ALLIES, AND ADVANCE ALLIANCE UNDERSTANDING OF ROLE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN NATO STRATEGY CONSISTENT WITH APPROPRIATE EMPHASIS ON CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE. THE PROJECT WILL ALSO POSE CHALLENGE TO US NEGOTIATORS TO STRIKE PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN INTERESTS OF US AND EUROPEAN ALLIES, WHICH, FOR POLITICALN, GEOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER REASONS, DO NOT NECESSARILY FULLY COINCIDE.

2. WE EXPECT THAT MINISTERIAL COMMENTS ON THE PHASE II STUDY TEAM REPORT AND ACCOMPANYING PERMREPS REPORT WILL FOSTER BROAD DISCUSSION OF ROLE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. RECALLING DISCUSSIONS IN PHASE II STUDY TEAM, AND AT STAFF AND PERMREP LEVEL AT NATO, A KEY ISSUE IN MINDS OF ALLIES MAY BE MILITARY UTILITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SOME ALLIES HAVE REVEALED INCLINATIONS TO DOUBT SUCH UTILITY. WE BELIEVE THAT IN DISCUSSIONS AT MONTEREY WE SHOULD SEEK TO TEMPER ANY ALLIED TENDENCY TOWARD SIMPLISTIC VIEWS OF THIS COMPLEX SUBJECT WHICH COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE DETERRENT OR TO CONSTRUCITVE ALLIED SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE NATO'S THEATER NUCLEAR POSTURE. THIS AGENDA ITEM CAN PROVIDE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SECDEF TO DISCUSS IN BROAD TERMS US VIEWS ON ROLE OF THEATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHICH COULD HELPFULLY SET TONE AND DIRECTIO FOR SUBSEQUENT PHASE III EFFORT. IN THIS CONNECTION, PRECEDING AGENDA ITEM (WINTEREX-75) COULD TEND TO RAISE NUMBER OF BASIC NUCLEAR POLICY ISSUES. HOWEVER, IS INFORMS US THAT SYG LUNS, IN HIS INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS ON WINTEREX-75, WILL INVITE MINISTERS TO RESERVE THEIR COMMENTS ON MAJOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS EMPLOYMENT POLICY ISSUES TO THE FOLLOWING ITEM ON FOLLOW-ON USE. WE BELIEVE THIS APPROACH

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IS GOO, SINCE IT WILL FACILITATE RELATING SUCH DISCUSSION TO THE PHASE III EFFORT.

3. IT IS LIKELY THAT ALLIED MINISTERS WILL RAISE SUBJECT OF SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING (SEP) IN DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOW-ON USE WORK PROGRAM. THEIR QUESTIONS WILL BE DIRECTED PRIMARILY TO SACEUR. SINCE PRE-PLANNING IS INTEGRAL PART OF US EMPLOYMENT POLICY, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE ENCOURAGING REMARKS TOWARD WORK UNDERWAY AT SHAPE ON SPE'S.

4. SECDEF'S REMARKS ON THE NUNN AMENDMENT NUCLEAR REPORT AND RELATED FOLLOW-ON STUDIES WILL CONSTITUTUTE IMPORTANT STEP IN CONSULTATIONS ON THIS KEY SUBJECT. MINISTERS WILL BE INTERESTED IN

LEARNING WHAT REACTIONS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE HAD TO THE NUNN NUCLEAR REPORT, AND WHAT NEW LEGISLATION MAY EMERGE THIS YEAR AS FOLLOW-UP TO NUNN AMENDMENT. MINISTERS WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSION STATUS OF FOLLOW-ON STUDIES, AND ROLE NATO WILL HAVE IN THIS WORK. SOME ALLIES HAVE ENCOURAGED PROCEDURES WHEREBY THE NPG WOULD COMMENT FORMALLY ON ALL NUNN AMENDMENT FOLLOW-ON STUDIES PREPARED BY THE NMA'S. WE BELIEVE US SHOULD PRESERVE FLEXIBILITY IN HANDLING OF THESE STUDIES, AND NOT BECOME BOUND TO A RIGID PROCEDURE SUCH AS THIS (SEE REF B). HOWEVER, WE SHOULD REASSURE ALLIES THAT THEY WILL BE AMPLY INVOLVED, AND REITERATE US INTENTIONS TO CONSULT FULLY ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE NUNN AMENDMENT NUCLEAR REPORT.

5. IN EARLIER CONSULTATIONS ON THE NUNN REPORT, ALLIES EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN IMPLICATIONS FORMBFR OF POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS IN THE THEATER NUCLEAR STOCKPILE. SINCE US WILL HAVE TABLED OPTION III PRIOR TO THE NPG MEETING, SECDEF WOULD ANTICIPATE QUESTIONS ON THE US PROPOSAL AND ON ITS RELATIONSHIP TO POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE THEATER NUCLEAR POSTURE DISCUSSED IN THE NUNN AMENDMENT NUCLEAR REPORT. IN PARTICULAR, MINISTERS MAY WISH TO KNOW IF US FORESEES ANY DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT IN THE STOCKPILE OTHER THAN IN THE CONTEXT OF AN AGREEMENT IN MBFR.

6. REGARDING THE AGENDA ITEM ON COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE PERMREPS REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT (NPG/D(74)10), WHICH WAS PREPARED LAST FALL, CONTAINS A RECOMMENDATION FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER STUDY OF THE USE OF "WARNING MESSAGES". WE DOUBT THE VALUE OF FURTHER STUDY OF THIS SUBJECT,

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AND BELIEVE, IN ANY CASE, THAT THE NPG HAS MORE PRODUCTIVE THINGS TO DO. WHILE THE UK MAY SUPPORT FURTHER STUDY, SINCE IT PUSHED THE IDEA INITIALLY, WE DETECT FLAGGING INTEREST IN THAT QUARTER. A FEW WELL-CHOSEN WORDS AT MONTEREY COULD PROBABLY SERVE TO PUT THIS SUBJECT TO REST.

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